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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/923,375

08/06/2001

Takayuki Ohkubo

CU-2613 RJS

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26530

7590

11/30/2005

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EXAMINER

HUNTSINGER, PETER K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/923,375

Applicant(s)

OHKUBO ET AL.

Examiner

Peter K. Huntsinger

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Traveling

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 02 September 2005 has been entered in full.
2. In response to the amendments, the objections to claims 2 and 4 have been dropped.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 02 September 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues on page 4 the response that:

Ueda does not teach privacy protection to the displayed image during a succession of operations for printing out.

- a. The examiner respectfully disagrees. The image is confirmed by the user before printing occurs (Fig. 39, col. 25, lines 47-53). The size of the image is selected prior to previewing the image (Fig. 12, col. 17, lines 38-45), which determines whether the image is protected for privacy.

Applicant argues on page 5 the response that:

Ueda does not teach a controlling means for displaying either a protection processed image or the image to be output based on the designation by the user

b. The examiner respectfully disagrees. The size of the image is selected prior to previewing the image (Fig. 12, col. 17, lines 38-45). The image is afterwards confirmed by the user prior to printing (Fig. 39, col. 25, lines 47-53). If the user selects a small image size, the user selects a protection processed image to be displayed. If the user selects a large image size, the user selects an image to be output to be displayed. The claim language does not limit the protection processed image from also being the image to be output.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ueda U.S. Patent 6,714,314.

Referring to claim 1, Ueda discloses an image printing apparatus comprising: an image data inputting means for inputting image data (image data input means 11 of Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 23-28); a command inputting device for inputting a printing command including designation of an image to be output (Fig. 7); a printing means for printing the image to be output (print producing means 14 of Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 23-28); a display

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device for displaying an image (monitor 412A of Fig. 6, col. 12, lines 14-25); and a processing device for producing a protection processed image for applying a privacy protection process to the image to be output (Fig. 12, col. 17, lines 38-45), wherein a controlling means for displaying either one of the protection processed image and the image to be output on the display device according to the designation by a user is provided (Fig. 39, col. 25, lines 47-53). Ueda discloses a process for selecting the image size of the printed image. A smaller sized image would inherently provide privacy protection because the image would reduce visibility and prevent others from seeing the image from a distance. Further, the applicant's specification suggests printing smaller images as an option for privacy protection. Selection of a larger sized printed image would be an image printed without privacy protection. The confirmation page (Fig. 39, col. 25, lines 47-53) disclosed by Ueda, displays the image modified with the user's selections before the image is printed. The page will either display a larger non-privacy protected image or a smaller privacy protected image as chosen by the user when the print size is selected.

Referring to claim 2, Ueda discloses an image printing apparatus comprising: an image data inputting means having one or a plurality of recording medium reading devices and/or optical image reading devices (image data input means 11 of Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 23-28); a command inputting device for inputting a printing command including designation of an image to be output (Fig. 7); an output content designation data producing means (keyboard 422 of Fig. 7, col. 12, lines 51-57) which produces the output content designation data recording the original or a processed image data to be

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output, and accompanying conditions (col. 5, lines 44-51); a printing means for printing the image to be output according to the command of the output content designation data (print producing means 14 of Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 23-28); a processing device for producing a protection processed image for applying a privacy protection process to the image to be output (Fig. 12, col. 17, lines 38-45); a display controlling means for selecting either one of the protection processed image and the image to be output as the display image according to the designation by the user (Fig. 39, col. 25, lines 47-53); and a display device for displaying the display image selected by the controlling means (monitor 412A of Fig. 6, col. 12, lines 14-25). Ueda discloses a process for selecting the image size of the printed image. A smaller sized image would inherently provide privacy protection because the image would reduce visibility and prevent others from seeing the image from a distance. Further, the applicant's specification suggests printing smaller images as an option for privacy protection. Selection of a larger sized printed image would be an image printed without privacy protection. The confirmation page (Fig. 39, col. 25, lines 47-53) disclosed by Ueda, displays the image modified with the user's selections before the image is printed. The page will either display a larger non-privacy protected image or a smaller privacy protected image as chosen by the user when the print size is selected.

Referring to claim 3, Ueda discloses the image printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means executes the selective display of the protection processed image and the image to be output by the display device during the printing operation by the printing means (Fig. 39, col. 25, lines 47-53).

Referring to claim 4, Ueda discloses the image printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means executes the selective display of the protection processed image and the image to be output by the display device during the setting necessary for the printing operation by the user (Fig. 39, col. 25, lines 47-53).

Referring to claim 5, Ueda discloses the image printing apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the processing device applies at least one selected from the group consisting of an image darkening process, a contrast lowering process, an image minifying process, a binary process of the image, an edge iris process, and an embossing process to the image to be output as the privacy protection process (Fig. 12, col. 17, lines 38-45) (Fig. 31, col. 24, lines 8-24).

Referring to claim 6, Ueda discloses the image printing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the controlling means receives a designation from a user for applying any one selected from the group consisting of an image darkening process, a contrast lowering process, an image minifying process, a binary process of the image, an edge iris process, and an embossing process as the privacy protection process, and produces the protection processed image according to the designated process. (Fig. 12, col. 17, lines 38-45) (Fig. 31, col. 24, lines 8-24).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter K. Huntsinger whose telephone number is (571)272-7435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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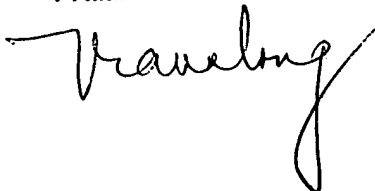
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PKH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PKH' with a stylized flourish.

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Douglas Q. Tran'.